



The TRUMPET

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Summer 2017

SUMMER SAFETY

Teaching "home alone"
kids about fire safety

Safe Grilling

Avoiding Firework Disasters

ALSO: 2nd Year for Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant, Senior Fire Safety, How Safe is Your Home?, Flammable Dirt?, The Dangers of Chlorine

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For the second year in a row, our state broke records — but not the kind we want to celebrate. The wildfires of 2017 dwarfed the previous champion Anderson Creek wildfire of 2016 in terms of acres burned and resources required. I would like to once again thank the firefighters and support personnel, plus the staffs of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Forest Service for their extraordinary effort to coordinate the efforts to bring this and other wildfires under control—saving many homes, livestock and potentially human lives along the way.

Everyone in the state, especially those in more rural areas, needs to be vigilant in doing their part to prevent wildfires and protecting their own property. Please download the Wildfire Action Guide from our website at FireMarshal.ks.gov/wildfire.

As Summer heats up, so does opportunities for fires and devastating burn injuries caused by backyard BBQs, campfires and fireworks. In this issue of *The Trumpet*, you'll find useful information to protect yourself and your loved ones from common Summer fires.

We hope you'll enjoy this issue of *The Trumpet* and please share it with friends, family and co-workers.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal



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HOT SPOTS @ OSFM



OUR MISSION

The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Investigation
- Hazardous material incident mitigation
- Public education
- Coordination of search and rescue efforts

The TRUMPET

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STAY CONNECTED



Illegally stored fireworks confiscated



OSFM Investigators recently confiscated this cache of illegally-stored fireworks. Information on fireworks storage licensing can be found on our [website](#).

Sara Wood Delights in Data at NFPA



Our own Sara Wood, NFIRS Program Manager, spoke at the NFPA Conference in Boston on June 6. Her address was titled "Building a Highway to Strong Data Collection."



The OSFM Investigation Division hosted a 2-day class in June on "Fire Death Scene and Analysis" at the Manhattan Fire Department. The class was taught by Det. Ed Nordskos of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office.



2017 Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant Program

Accepting Applications July 1

Volunteer and part-time fire departments face recruitment and retention challenges because they do not have the funding to provide safety equipment. Without new equipment provided by the recruiting fire department, potential volunteers are faced with not only donating their time but also providing their own safety gear, sharing gear with others, or doing without.

For the second year, our office is offering the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG) program as an opportunity for local fire departments to receive much-needed funding. This program, renewed again in the 2017 State of Kansas budget passed by the state Legislature and signed by Governor Sam Brownback, is aimed at assisting volunteer and part-time fire departments with firefighter recruitment.

This grant program includes \$200,000 from the Fire Marshal Fee Fund. Safety gear which can be purchased through this grant program based on a proven and demonstrated need includes bunker gear, fire helmets, fire boots, and new masks for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units for newly hired department members.

This grant program not only addresses safety of firefighters, but their health as

well. The OSFM also provides grants to local firefighters to assist in paying for physical examinations not otherwise covered by their departments. In the most recent two years alone, the last three line-of-duty deaths in the Kansas Fire Service resulted from heart attacks before and after responses to fire calls, or

“ 19 Kansas fire departments received grants for safety gear and 5 received new washer/extractor machines from the 2016 KFRSG Program.

during training. A physical examination by a doctor could identify underlying health issues and, hopefully, decrease the number of health-related deaths.

The OSFM will also use grant funds to purchase and strategically place washer-extractor machines throughout the state. It is vital to the health of firefighters to properly clean personal protective gear following a fire to prevent the transfer of carcinogens, particulates and biohazards to firefighters, and those they serve. Further, as more and more particles attach to protective gear and chemicals remain on clothing, that gear gradually loses its effectiveness—putting

firefighters at increased risk.

As the goal for the KFRSG grant program is firefighter recruitment, providing funding for the start of Explorer programs offers a great way for local fire departments to give the youth of their area an opportunity to explore both

career and voluntary opportunities in the fire service. Volunteer and part-time fire departments will be able to apply for funding to cover the initiation fees for the Explorer program or the National Volunteer Fire Council National Junior

”

Firefighter Program, plus a \$100 start-up fund.

Grant applicants must be established and recognized volunteer or part-time Kansas fire departments in good standing with OSFM or a firefighter in good standing with their local fire department. All safety gear purchased through the program would become the property of the requesting department and not of the individual for which it was requested.

Grant requests will be accepted through October 1 and award letters to those whose requests are approved will follow shortly.

www.firemarshal.ks.gov



How Safe is YOUR Home?

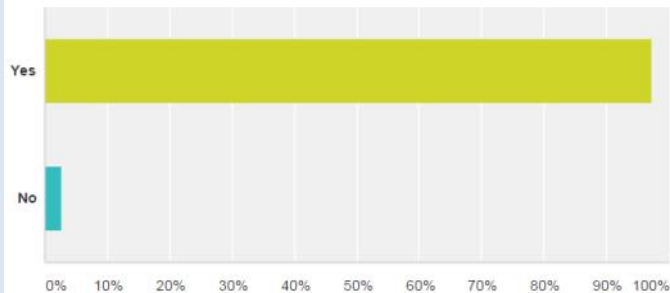


Take our survey at

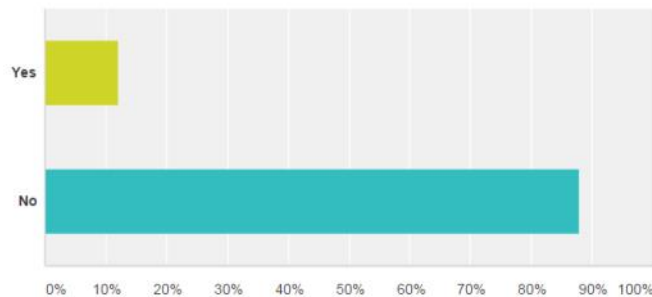
www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunityRisks.

We asked 107 Kansans about their household safety practices, which included questions about the presence of working smoke alarms in their homes. Here are some of the results from this purely unscientific survey:

Is there a working smoke alarm inside your home?



Do you test your smoke alarms monthly?



We are committed to a Safer Kansas

All employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal are committed to offering people the knowledge and skills they need to lead safer lives.

Fire and Life Safety Education is provided through ongoing fire prevention programs as well as public awareness media campaigns to help educate everyone in making informed decisions regarding fire and life safety.

Fire Prevention programs are delivered through on-site presentations, classroom instruction, press releases, newsletters, and internet.

Please contact our office at 785-296-3401 to request an on-site presentation or other education materials, or if you have questions regarding fire and life safety issues.

every...

24
seconds

a fire department responded to a fire

30
minutes

one civilian fire injury was reported

65
seconds

one structure fire was reported

50
seconds

one outside fire was reported

85
seconds

one home fire was reported

146
seconds

one vehicle fire was reported

from the NFPA report



Grilling on the barbecue and campfires are great ways to spend quality time outdoors in the summertime. Summer is also a season when kids spend a great deal of time home alone and need to be taught the importance of fire safety.

It's important to remember any fire can cause serious injuries to children. In fact, summer is the season when there is an increase in visits to the emergency room due to fire and burn injury. Safe Kids Kansas and the Office of the State Fire Marshal remind families to take simple precautions which will prevent "What I Did This Summer" stories from including trips to the ER.

Preventing "Home Alone" Disasters

Bored kids at home alone over the summer can injure themselves or cause severe fire damage to their homes by playing with fire or even when cooking their meals on the stove. Parents need to talk to their kids about fire dangers, and create and practice an escape plan which includes two ways out of every room. Kids should be taught to crawl low to the ground and be able to evacuate the home within two minutes, then call 911 from outside the home with a cell phone or at a neighbor's house.

To prevent fires from occurring in the first place, parents should hide all matches and lighters and teach their children to practice kitchen safety. It is safest for

parents to prepare meals for their children or teach them to prepare their food that does not require the use of a stove. Kids that parents deem responsible enough to cook their meals should be taught cooking safety, such as staying in the kitchen and being fully attentive to any items on the stove, using a timer to prevent food from burning, and knowing how to use a lid to smother a flaming skillet.

Safe Grilling

Grilling food outdoors is a national summer pastime. But before lighting up the grill, know the facts and keep safety in mind. Grill fires at home are estimated to cause an average of 10 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$37 million in property loss each year in the U.S.

Follow these grilling safety tips:

- Gas and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill to prevent flare ups.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

Fun and Safe Camp Fires

Many families enjoy camping during the summer months and making s'mores around the campfire is often part of that tradition. Be fire smart when you head for the great outdoors, and be prepared to take extra precautions when you may be far from a water source.

Follow these campfire safety tips:

- Supervise children and keep them away from the fire.
- Teach kids how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.
- Keep plenty of water nearby and have a shovel for throwing sand or dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.

When extinguishing the fire, drown it with water. If you do not have water, use dirt. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cooled. However, do not bury coals, as they can smolder and start to burn again.

For more information about fire safety, visit www.safekids.org or www.firemarshal.ks.gov/firesafety.

Grilling SAFETY

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons. To keep you and your family safe while grilling, follow these Grilling Safety tips...



1. Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
2. The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
3. Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
4. Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
5. Never leave your grill unattended.



Statistics show that as summer approaches, we see an increase in the number of fire/burn emergency department (ER) visits in Kansas. Data collected by Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Program show fire/burn ER visits peaked in the month of July. This is likely due to the increase in use of fireworks.

Fireworks are a tradition with many families around Independence Day, and it is no surprise that many kids enjoy the sparkles and booms of fireworks. But it is important to recognize that fireworks are

explosive and can be dangerous. It is especially important to supervise children around fireworks, keeping them at a safe distance and ensuring any firework they may be handling is appropriate for their age and used correctly according to the manufacturer. In 2015, 137 fireworks injuries were reported in Kansas. Of those, 37 percent were injuries to children ages 18 and younger, according to OSFM. In addition, we know that many minor injuries go unreported.

“Even when handled correctly, fireworks can sometimes be defective or simply unpredictable,” said Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas. “Even sparklers, which are typically viewed by parents as relatively harmless fireworks for children, can burn as hot as 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. The hot tips and flying sparks can cause serious burn injuries to the skin and eyes. In fact, sparklers account for one-third of the injuries to children under five in the U.S.”

“While shooting your own fireworks can be a thrill, they can also cause serious injuries and fires if not handled properly,”

says Doug Jorgensen, Fire Marshal for the State of Kansas. “The safest approach to enjoying fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals who know how to properly handle fireworks. We want all our Kansas kids to enjoy this summer’s fun and festivities as safely as possible.”

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.
- Transport fireworks in the trunk of your vehicle. If your vehicle does not have a trunk, ensure fireworks are kept out of direct sunlight.
- Read and follow the directions on the packaging.
- Never modify fireworks or use homemade or illegal fireworks.
- Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. Let young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun but they don’t burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.
- If a child is injured by fireworks, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- The best protection is to attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to professionals.

Fireworks-Related Emergency Department Visits reported to Kansas ESSENCE, June—August, 2016



Location	Count
Eyes, Face, & Head	34
Arms	7
Hands	48
Legs	15
Feet	5
Other/Unspecified	14
Total Count	123

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Always have a sober adult in charge & never give fireworks to young children—even sparklers.



Read and follow the directions on the labels.



Only buy legal consumer fireworks from a licensed store, stand or tent. They typically have brightly colored labels with manufacturer name, directions and warnings.



Never carry a firework in your pocket or shoot fireworks from a metal or glass container.



Keep spectators at a safe distance.



Celebrate Safely!

Remember, even legal fireworks can cause injury if not used properly.

Always wear safety glasses when igniting fireworks.



Don't aim or throw fireworks at another person.



Never place any part of your body over a firework device.



When finished, allow used fireworks to stand for at least 20 minutes, submerge in water, drain, place in plastic bag & dispose in trash can.



Use only fireworks outdoors away from buildings on a flat, level, hard, fireproof surface that is free from debris.



Have a garden hose or bucket of water handy.



Light only one firework at a time and never approach or re-ignite a firework that doesn't light the first time.





Older adults are significantly more at risk than other members of the U.S. population to be victims of house fires.

In 2014, according to the U.S. Fire Administration, older adults (ages 65 and older) represented 14 percent of the United States population but suffered 38 percent of all fire deaths. In Kansas, of the 223 total fire-related deaths, 42 victims were over the age of 65 – representing 19 percent of the total fire deaths.

The U.S.F.A. research also shows that older adults are 2.6 times more likely to die in a fire than the general population. The risk worsens as we age, with people ages 85 and older 4.1 times more likely to die in a fire.



The Kansas Fire Marshal and Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services offer these tips to keep seniors safe from the dangers of fire:

- When space heaters are on, keep them at least three feet away from anything that can burn, such as curtains or furniture.
- If you're exiting the room, or if you're going to bed, make sure that your turn off and unplug the space heater.
- Have smoke detectors installed outside each sleeping area and replace the battery two times a year—every time that you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.
- Never wear loose clothes or clothes with long sleeves when cooking. Remember to use oven mitts when handling hot pans. And NEVER leave the kitchen while you're cooking.
- Check the kitchen after you finish cooking to make sure the oven burners and other appliances are turned off.
- Walk through your home and identify any possible exits in case of a fire. Make a fire escape plan.
- If there's fire or smoke, get out and stay out.

Older adults face the greatest relative risk of dying in a fire. In 2014, older adults...

...Represented 14 percent of the United States population but suffered 38 percent of all fire deaths.

...Had a 2.6 times greater risk of dying in a fire than the total population.

...Ages 85 and over were 4.1 times more likely to die in a fire than the total population.





Living Fire Safe While Aging in Place

The Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University predicts that by 2035, the population of those 65 and older will grow to approximately 79 million -- up more than 30 million from today. And 90 percent of adults in that age group prefer to remain in their homes, according to AARP.

For those who would like to stay in their homes into their golden years, updating these three areas to accommodate changing needs is something worth tackling sooner rather than later.

Lighting

A well-lit home, both indoors and out, is a fundamental component of safe, long-term living. Start by making sure all rooms, staircases and doorways have

adequate lighting. Motion-sensor lights and easily accessible light switches help all occupants, no matter the age. Does

those who are wheelchair-bound or using a walker more room to move easily throughout the home.

“ 25% of Americans 65 or older suffer a fall each year. ”

scheduling lights or adjusting brightness from the convenience of a smartphone sound appealing? Look into the latest in smart lighting technology.

Doorways

Most homeowners don't give any thought to moving from room to room. But when a wheelchair enters the picture, navigating entrances, hallways and exits can become a concern. Widening doorways to 36 inches gives

Bathrooms

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 25% of Americans 65 or older suffer a fall each

year. Ensure bathrooms are as safe as possible by adding grab bars near the toilet and in the shower. If budget allows, consider retrofitting bathrooms with a taller toilet and a walk-in shower for added convenience.

For those who'd like to stay in their residence during their senior years, keep the principles of aging in place in mind to modify, update and renovate the home appropriately.



What is chlorine?

Chlorine is an element used in industry and found in some household products. It can be a poisonous gas or a liquid.

Chlorine gas can be recognized by its pungent, irritating odor, which smells like bleach (the strong smell may be a warning of exposure).



Chlorine gas appears to be yellow-green in color. While not flammable, it can react explosively or form explosive compounds with other chemicals like turpentine or ammonia.

How chlorine exposure happens

People may be exposed to chlorine through skin or eye contact, or by breathing contaminated air. People may be exposed by touching or drinking water exposed to chlorine, or by eating food contaminated with liquid chlorine.

People's risk for exposure depends on how close they are to the place where the chlorine was released. Chlorine gas is heavier than air, so it settles in low-lying areas.

How chlorine works

The extent of poisoning caused by chlorine depends on the amount of chlorine a person is exposed to, how the person was exposed, and the length of time of the exposure.

When chlorine gas comes into contact with moist tissues such as the eyes, throat, and lungs, an acid is produced that can damage these tissues.

Signs of chlorine exposure

During or immediately after exposure to dangerous concentrations of chlorine, the following signs and symptoms may develop:

- Coughing
- Chest tightness
- Burning sensation in the nose, throat, and eyes
- Watery eyes
- Blurred vision
- Nausea and vomiting
- Burning pain, redness, and blisters on the skin if exposed to gas
- Skin injury similar to frostbite if exposed to liquid chlorine
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath (may appear immediately if high concentrations of chlorine gas are inhaled, or may be delayed if low concentrations of chlorine gas are inhaled)
- Fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema) within 2 to 4 hours

How to protect yourself, and what to do if exposed to chlorine

Should you find yourself exposed to chlorine, leave the area, getting to fresh air quickly.

If outdoor release, move away from the release, to the highest ground possible. If indoor release, get out of the building immediately. If you think you may have been exposed, remove your clothing, rapidly wash your entire body with soap and water, and get medical care as quickly as possible.

Tips for handling of exposed clothing

- Remove clothing quickly, do NOT pull over head.
- Seal clothing in a plastic bag. Then double seal the first bag into a second plastic bag.
- Inform emergency or medical personnel you have sealed the clothing - do NOT handle the bags.
- If helping others - avoid touching contaminated areas, remove clothing quickly and seal.
- Wash the entire body with soap and water quickly.
- If your eyes are burning or your vision blurred, rinse your eyes with plain water for 10 to 15 minutes. (remove contact lens first, bag them and do not put them back in)
- If you wear eyeglasses, wash them thoroughly with soap and water before putting them back on.

If you swallowed chlorine, do not induce vomiting or drink fluids, just seek immediate medical attention.



Is dirt flammable?

Most would say no but in the case of potting soil it really can be. People have a preconceived notion that potting soil is mostly dirt with some nutrients added in. Potting soils often contain peat moss, coir fiber (coconut fiber), and composted pine bark. All three ingredients are

Extinguishing cigarettes in potted plants has caused at least 18 fires in Kansas

flammable. Potted plants are especially vulnerable to fire when the soil dries out. Add in a plant that has dried out from lack of water and the ignition probability increases quickly.

With dry conditions just waiting for a spark, the last thing that should be added to the mix are cigarettes. Extinguishing cigarettes into potted plants has caused at least 18 fires in Kansas since 2001, damaging a

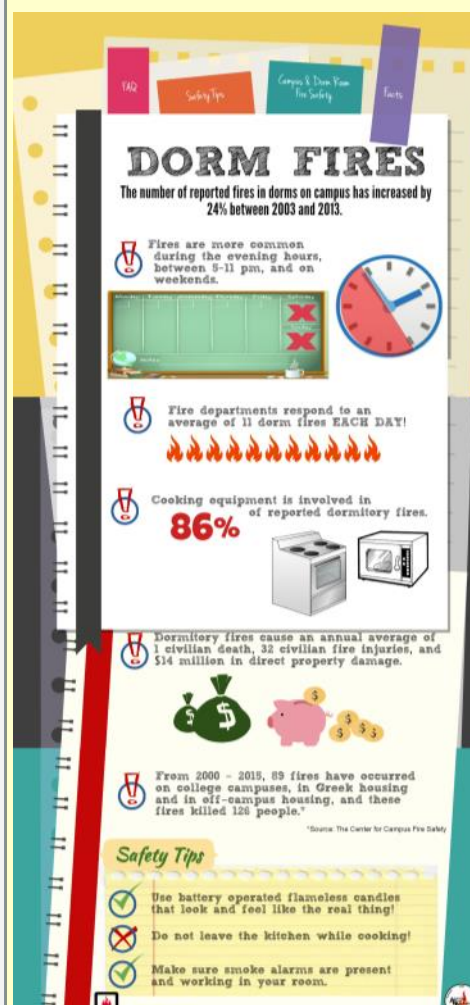
total of 125 apartment units and 6 houses. The Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System does not contain specific ignition codes for potting soil combined with smoking. The 18 fires were located using a narrative search for "potting soil" and "potted plant" but narratives aren't required. Because narratives may not be available, this type of fire may be more prevalent than stated here.



Questions on Campus Fire Safety

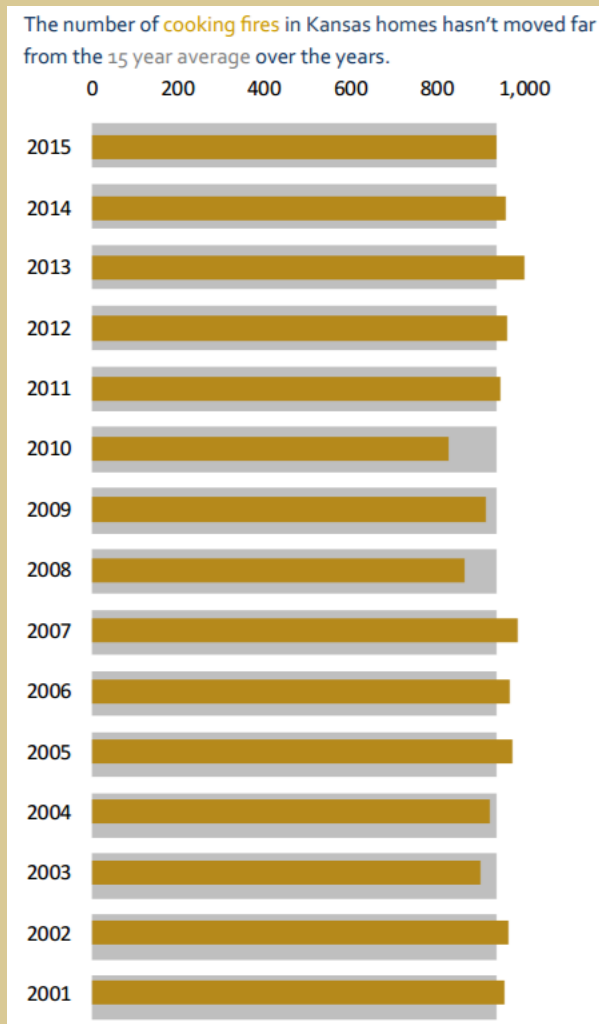
Between January 2000 and July 2012, 155 people died in campus-related fires, both on and off-campus. When visiting a school or choosing housing, make an informed decision. Here are a few questions to ask:

- Are the housing options equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems?
- Are there smoke alarms in each bedroom and on each level?
- Is the fire department notified IMMEDIATELY when an alarm is activated?
- How much fire prevention training does the residence hall staff receive?
- How often are evacuation drills conducted?



BY THE ### NUMBERS

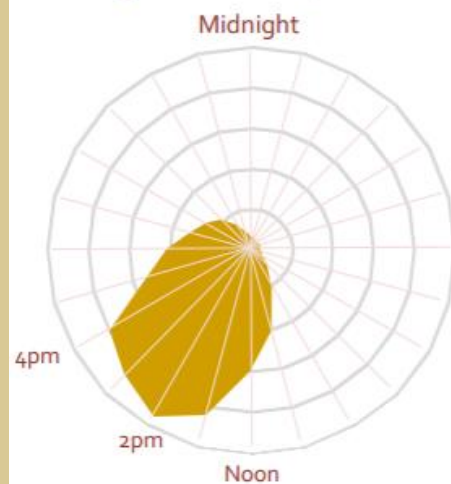
Cooking Fires on Average



When Do Vegetation Fires Strike?

Vegetation fires, including rekindles, occur mainly in the afternoon. The heavy call load of vegetation fires, during Grass Fire Season, is worse by how condensed it is. Over 60% of vegetation fires occur between 12pm and 5pm, wearing down crews quickly. When vegetation fires die down, it's time for structure fires.

Vegetation Fires by Hour



50.8%

The percentage of residential home fires started by cooking.
Source: USFA

7

The average number of citizens who die in U.S. house fires each day.
Source: NFPA

1/3

The number of Americans who have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. *Source: NFPA*

2,074

The number of Kansas vehicle fires in both 2014 and 2015, the only type of fire that did not decrease between those years. *Source: NFIRS*